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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/674,501      | 10/01/2003  | Yasuhiro Suzuki      | 2018-783            | 4230             |

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| EXAMINER |
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COTTINGHAM, JOHN R

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3679

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,501

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI, YASUHIRO

Examiner

John R. Cottingham

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/1/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-8 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent 62-147709 (Hereinafter referred to as Japanese patent '709). Japanese Patent '709 shows all of the claimed subject matter of a screw fastening structure in the translation and Figures 1-4.

Regarding claim 1, a screw fastening structure comprising: a screw 16 having a male-threaded portion; a housing including a resinous portion 18 to engage with the male-threaded portion; and be threadably an adhesive 14 permeating between the male-threaded portion and the resinous portion.

Regarding claim 2, wherein: the resinous portion has a round through hole 17 for guiding the male-threaded portion to be engaged therewith; the adhesive is applied in its non-hardened state (see translation portion) to the inner surface of the through hole before the male-threaded portion is threadably engaged with the inner surface of the

through hole; and the adhesive is hardened after the male-threaded portion is threadably engaged with the through hole.

Regarding claim 3, a screw fastening structure comprising: a screw 16 having a male-threaded portion and a screw head, which is positioned at an end of the screw in opposition to an engaging side of the screw; and a housing 13 including a resinous portion to be threadably engage with the male-threaded portion, wherein: the resinous portion 13 has a round through hole for guiding the male-threaded portion to be engaged therewith; the resinous portion 13 has a an inlet 15 of and concentrically clearance inlet hole around with the through hole; and an inner diameter of the clearance inlet hole is larger than an outer diameter of the male-threaded portion.

Regarding claim 4, wherein the clearance inlet hole 15 has a tapering shape (intersection of 15 and 13), where the inner diameter of the clearance inlet hole becomes smaller in a screwing direction of the screw.

Regarding claim 5, a screw fastening structure comprising: a screw 16 having a male-threaded portion and a screw head, which is positioned at an end of the screw 16 in opposition to an engaging side of the screw; and a housing 11 including a resinous portion 13 having a though hole 17 to be threadably engage with the male-threaded portion, wherein the length of the male-threaded portion is shorter than the length of the through hole so that the male-threaded portion should not be projected form the outlet of the through hole when engaged therewith.

Regarding claim 6, a screw fastening structure comprising: a screw 16 having a male-threaded portion; and a housing 11 including a resinous portion 16 to be

threadably engage with the male-threaded portion, wherein the resinous portion 13 has a round through hole for guiding the male-threaded portion to be engaged therewith, wherein the resinous portion 13 has a clearance portion around an outlet 15 of and concentrically with the through hole.

Regarding claim 7, wherein the clearance portion is a clearance outlet hole 15, the inner diameter of which is larger than the outer diameter of the male-threaded portion.

Regarding claim 8, wherein the clearance portion 15 is formed by a chamfered outlet portion. (Between 15 and 13)

Regarding claim 11, wherein the male-threaded portion has a non-circular shape in its cross-section. (it has an oblong triangular shape because the threads are not straight across).

Regarding claim 12, wherein the non-circular shape is a substantially triangle shape.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 9-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Conclusion***


5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kubler et al. U.S. Patent 6,588,999, and DiMaio et al. U.S. Patent 5,356,254 show similar inventions.

6.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Cottingham whose telephone number is (703) 306-3439. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John R. Cottingham  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3679

jrc